

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TRENTON PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital was held on **Thursday, January 18, 2024**, pursuant to notice duly given. In conformance with the Public Open Meetings Law, notice of the meeting has been sent to The Trenton Times, The Trentonian, Newark Star-Ledger and the Secretary of State and a notice placed on the bulletin board of Trenton Psychiatric Hospital.

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	<b><u>Excused:</u></b>
***Carolyn Torre - RN, MA, APN Chairperson ***Neil Weisfeld, Esq. ***Maureen Lebel – MSW, PhD. ***Dr. Mark Rosenberg – DO, MBA, FACEP, FAAHPM ***Timothy Gallagher – Director of HSP Law Enforcement	Susan Rubino, MD ***Thomas Pyle – MBA, MS

**TPH Staff Attendance:**

Maria Christensen, CEO; James Hollen, Deputy Chief Executive Officer -Operations (DCEO); Faith Johnson – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Clinical); Julie Van Houten, Chief Nursing Officer; Intikhab Ahmad, M.D.; Clinical Director, Michelle Senni – Executive Assistant to the CEO; Margaret VanMater – Acting QI Director; Sheila Kwoka – Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**Guest:**

Angela Wairimu Program Analyst – Middlesex County; Joe Suppers – Public Guest;

**Excused:**

Towana Wilkins, Business Manager;

**ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER/MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Roll call was conducted in-person. The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes from the December 21, 2023.

### **December Monthly Report:**

- Dr. Rosenberg noted that the assaults continue to decrease. Totals continue to also fluctuate.
- Rosenberg was pleased to see the Average Duration /Restraints.
- Dr. Rosenberg was very pleased that the Patients are learning new skills that will help them upon discharge.
- Dr. Rosenberg inquired about the Risk Management Level A+ incidents. The Office of Investigations (OI) investigates the incidents that took place. Would like to see a summary about the A+ incidents as to when the incident will be closed and what were the results.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that the Restraints were high in the month of December.
- Mr. Weisfeld noted that December was National Hand Washing Awareness Month. Mr. Weisfeld wanted to know if anyone monitors handwashing? The Infection Prevention (IP) monitors this. The Handwashing event also took place the same time as the Flu Vaccine event. There were activities for the all the patients.
- Mr. Weisfeld was very pleased about the Delinquency rate stand at 0%.
- Ms. Torre would like to know the outcome of the Patient Service Compliance Unit (PSCU) complaints going forward.
- Ms. Torre noticed the increase in COVID and RSV patients.
- Dr. Lebel was pleased with the CEPP patients and Social Work for there had work.
- Dr. Lebel was pleased to have the extra information from Risk Management on the A+ Incidents.

### **AUXILIARY REPORT:**

- They continue to take donations. The Auxiliary is currently taking donations for the "Fashion Show" which is taking place on March 22, 2024.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Incident Committee – Dr. Maureen Lebel**

No report currently. The next Violence meeting is on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

- **Legislative Committee – Mr. Neil Weisfeld**

#### **I. BILLS AFFECTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

The Committee continues to monitor the following bills. Actions taken since the Committee's last report appear in boldface (**thus**).

**A5096/S3511:**

Corrects terminology regarding alcohol use and substance use disorder

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Benjie E. Wimberly (D), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D), Anthony S. Verrelli (D); Senators Vin Gopal (D), Brian D. Stack (D)

Approved by Assembly Health Committee 11-0 on March 9. Passed by the Assembly 71-2 on May 25. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee June 1. Approved by Senate Health Committee 8-0 on June 15. Passed by the Senate 37-0 on June 20. Amended version passed by the Assembly 76-2 on June 30. **Signed by the Governor November 30, P.L. 2023, ch. 177.**

**Note: This bill substitutes the terms "alcohol use disorder" and "substance use disorder" for clinically outmoded, more stigmatizing language.**

**A2764/S1068:**

Increases Medicaid reimbursement for certain evidence-based mental health services

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Sterley S. Stanley (D), Sadaf F. Jaffer (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senators Joseph F. Vitale (D), Vin Gopal (D)

Approved by Assembly Human Services Committee 9-0 on February 9, referred to Assembly Health Committee. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 31 (2022).

**A4275/S3461:**

Establishes ombudsman for mental health and addiction services

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Angela V. McKnight (D), Benjie E. Wimberly (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senator James Beach (D)

Approved by Assembly Health Committee 12-0 on February 13, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 12.

**A4615/S3591:**

Requires state to help develop graduate medical education programs in behavioral health care

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Louis D. Greenwald (D), Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D), Ellen J. Park (D); Senator Andrew Zwicker (D)

Approved by Assembly Higher Education Committee 12-0 on February 13, approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee 10-0 on February 23, passed by the Assembly 78-0 on February 27. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee February 28. Approved by the Senate committee 8-0 on May 11.

**A4755/S3261:**

Permits behavioral and mental health providers to operate in homeless shelters

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Yvonne Lopez (D), William F. Moen (D), Shanique Speight (D); Senator Renee C. Burgess (D)

Approved by Assembly Housing Committee 6-0 on October 13, approved by Assembly Human Services Committee 9-0 on December 8, passed by the Assembly 77-0 on December 15. Approved by the Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee 8-0 on January 19. Amended version passed by the Senate 36-0 on March 20. Amended version passed by the Assembly 74-0 on March 30. Signed by the Governor May 15, P.L. 2023, ch. 62.

**A3514/S704:**

Prohibits mental health professionals from disclosing mental health notes to health insurers

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Clinton Calabrese (D), Angelica M. Jimenez (D), Reginald W. Atkins (D); Senators Richard J. Codey (D), Anthony M. Bucco (R)  
Approved by Senate Commerce Committee 4-0 on May 16 (2022), passed by the Senate 38-0 on June 16 (2022). Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee June 16 (2022).

**A508/S2668:**

Establishes annual cost-of-living adjustment for mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Daniel R. Benson (D), Carol A. Murphy (D); Senators Linda R. Greenstein (D), Joseph F. Vitale (D), Vin Gopal (D)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee January 11 (2022). Approved by Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee 7-0 on October 6, referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**A1700/S524 ScsSca (SCS/1R):**

Creates mental health diversion program to divert eligible persons from criminal justice system.

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Annette Quijano (D), Raj Mukherji (D), Reginald W. Atkins (D); Senators M. Teresa Ruiz (D), Sandra B. Cunningham (D)

Approved by Assembly Judiciary Committee 4-0 on September 29, referred to Assembly Human Services Committee. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee January 11 (2022). Approved by Senate Judiciary Committee 7-0 and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 12. Transferred to Assembly Judiciary Committee and approved by it 3-0 and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee on June 15. Approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee 7-3 on June 22. Passed by the Senate 21-15 on June 30. Passed by the Assembly 45-28 on June 30.

**Conditional veto by the Governor received in the Senate November 27.**

**Revised version concurring with the Governor's recommendations substituted by the Senate 22-12 on December 11, passed by the Senate 23-12 on December 21, and passed by the Assembly 54-13 on December 21. Signed by the Governor December 21, P.L. 2023, ch. 188. Note: The revised version, based on the Governor's veto, excludes from the program all Megan's Law sexual crimes, instead of excluding only first-degree Megan's Law crimes. A bill sponsor requested the change following public criticism of the bill as originally passed.**

**A1924/S3031:**

Mandates reimbursement of mental health treatment for domestic violence by health insurers

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Lisa Swain (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senators Vin Gopal (D), M. Teresa Ruiz (D)

Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee September 22.

**A4604/S682:**

Mandates suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Kevin J. Rooney (R); Senators Anthony M. Bucco (R), Vin Gopal (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee September 22. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 11 (2022).

**A4540/S1153:**

Mandates mental health evaluation of all adult and juvenile animal cruelty offenders ("Shyanne's Law")

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Angelica M. Jimenez (D); Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D)

Referred to Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee September 22.

Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee January 31 (2022).

**A4618/S3122:**

Creates online job portal for behavioral health care workers and online externship and internship portal for health care students

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Roy Freiman (D), Carol A. Murphy (D), Louis D. Greenwald (D); Senator Andrew Zwicker (D)

Approved by Assembly Labor Committee 9-0 on December 8, approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee 10-0 on February 23, passed by the Assembly 78-0 on February 27. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee February 28. Approved by the Senate committee 8-0 on May 11.

**A1336/S1965:**

Creates Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board in Department of Human Services

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Gabriela M. Mosquera (D), Gary S. Schaer (D), Pamela R. Lampitt (D); Senator Kristin M. Corrado (R)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee March 3 (2022).

**A2286/S1522:**

Eases practice restrictions for advanced practice nurses

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Nancy F. Munoz (R), Mila M. Jasey (D), William W. Spearman (D); Senators Joseph F. Vitale (D), Troy Singleton (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee February 7 (2022). Approved by Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee 7-0 on December 15.

**A2875/S528:**

Creates Behavioral Health Services Task Force

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Daniel R. Benson (D); Senator Joseph F. Vitale (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee February 28 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 31 (2022).

**A1847/S255:**

Allows diversion from criminal prosecution of some people affected by mental illness

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Ellen J. Park (D); Senators Shirley K. Turner (D), Brian P. Stack (D)

Referred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee January 11 (2022).

**A1950/S1950 [!]:**

Includes substance use disorder among conditions sometimes justifying involuntary commitment

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Raj Mukherji (D), Gabriela M. Mosquera (D), Angelica M. Jimenez (D); Senator Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez (D)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee January 11 (2022). Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee March 3 (2022).

**A3675/S3574:**

Creates START pilot program for people with dual diagnoses

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Anthony S. Verrelli (D), Raj Mukherji (D), Daniel R. Benson (D); Senator Jean Stanfield (R)

Approved by Assembly Human Services Committee 9-0 on June 9, referred to Assembly Health Committee. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee February 9.

**A3750/S143:**

Enhances suicide prevention and treatment

Sponsors: Assembly reps. Kim Eulner (R), Marilyn Piperno (R); Senators Patrick J. Diegnan, Jr. (D), Linda R. Greenstein (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee May 2. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 11 (2022).

**A4604/S682:**

Mandates suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners

Sponsors: Assembly rep. Kevin J. Rooney (R); Senators Anthony M. Bucco (R), Vin Gopal (D)

Referred to Assembly Health Committee September 22. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee January 11 (2022).

**A5283/S3939:**

Requires professional licensing boards to adhere to national averages in processing licensure applications

Sponsors: Assembly representatives P. Christopher Tully (D), Gabriela M. Mosquera (D), and Louis D. Greenwald (D); Senator Joseph A. Lagana (D)

Referred to Assembly Labor Committee March 9, approved by the Committee 9-0 on March 23. Referred to Senate Commerce Committee June 8. **Approved by the Committee 4-0 on December 4. Passed by the Assembly 72-0 on December 7, passed by the Senate 35-0 on December 21. Vetoed by the Governor January 8. Note: The main reason for the veto, cited by the Governor, was the administrative burden the bill would impose on all 50 licensing boards in the State, which would be charged with compiling national average processing times. The Governor also said such data would be of limited value in light of different states' requirements and processes.**



**A4619/S3596:**

Makes temporary health profession licenses, as established during the COVID pandemic, a permanent option

Sponsors: Assembly representatives Herb Conaway, Jr. (D), Sterley S. Stanley (D), and Louis D. Greenwald (D); Senator Fred H. Madden, Jr. (D)

Referred to Assembly Regulated Professions Committee September 22 (2022), approved by the Committee 5-0 on January 12. Referred to Senate Commerce Committee February 13. **Approved by Assembly Committee 5-0 on December 12 and referred to Assembly Health Committee. Approved by Assembly Health Committee 11-0 on December 11 and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Approved by Assembly Appropriations Committee 10-0 on January 4, 2024. Passed by the Assembly 75-0 on January 8. Note: The Senate took no action on this bill.**

**A5182/S3929:**

Revises requirements for involuntary commitment for mental health treatment, allowing for court orders to extend the commitment period beyond 72 hours

Sponsors: Assembly representatives Pamela R. Lampitt (D) and Raj Mukherji (D) and Senators Joseph F. Vitale (D), Nicholas P. Scutari (D), Reginald W. Atkins (D), and John F. McKeon (D)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee February 13. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee June 5. Transferred to Assembly Judiciary Committee and approved by it 5-0 and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee June 15. Approved by Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee 7-1 on June 15. Transferred to Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee and approved by it 5-0 on June 22. Approved by Assembly Budget Committee 14-0 on June 27. Approved by Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee 12-0 on June 27. Passed by the Senate 36-1 on June 30. Passed by the Assembly 76-1 on June 30. Signed by the Governor August 16, P.L. 2023, ch. 139.

**A5600/S4007:**

Establishes right to mental health care for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

Sponsors: Assembly representatives Pamela R. Lampitt (D), Carol A. Murphy (D), and Angela V. McKnight (D) and Senator Linda R. Greenstein (D)

Referred to Assembly Human Services Committee June 15. Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee June 26.

## **II. ADDITIONAL BILLS AFFECTING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

In addition, an important bill creating community crisis response teams was passed recently and, at this writing, awaits the Governor's signature. On January 8, the final day of the legislative session (when some 150 bills were considered), the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 21-14. The Assembly had approved the measure by a vote of 59-18 in June.

The bill appropriates \$12 million over three years for a pilot program in six counties and establishes a 13-member council to promote best practices. The bill is named the Seabrooks-Washington Community-Led Crisis Response Act for two victims of police shootings.

The 2022-2023 legislative session bill is **A5326/S4250**, sponsored by Assembly representatives William W. Spearman, Shavonda E. Sumter, and Verlina Reynolds-Jackson and Senators James Beach and M. Teresa Ruiz, all Democrats. The pilot programs would be developed in Camden, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, and Passaic counties.<sup>1</sup> Signed by the Governor, 1/12/24: P.L. 2023, c.259.

## **III. NOTE ON LEGISLATION AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:**

Four of the 24 bills monitored by the Committee in the 2022-2023 legislative session were enacted into law. As described in Part I of this report, these bills:

- modernize language regarding alcohol and substance use
- permit mental health practitioners to function in homeless shelters
- create a mental health diversion program outside the criminal justice system, and
- allow for extensions in court-ordered mental health commitments.

All 20 other bills listed in Part I of this report are no longer viable, as they expired along with the state's 220th Legislature. However, these same bills may -- and several doubtless will -- be introduced in the new Legislature, which convened January 9th.

On that same date Governor Murphy delivered his State of the State message. On issues related to health care, he proposed reforms intended to reduce the number and severity of personal bankruptcies caused by medical debt. The speech also noted for calling for large investments to make New Jersey a national leader in artificial intelligence.

Mark J. Bonamo, "Bill to boost community crisis response teams passed in wake of police-involved shootings," *New Jersey Monitor*, January 8, 2024, <https://newjerseymonitor.com/2024/01/08/bill-to-boost-community-crisis-response-teams-passed-in-wake-of-police-involved-shootings/#:~:text=The%20measure%20would%20appropriate%20%2412,operate%20community%20crisis%20response%20teams>

Star-Ledger Editorial Board, "Enlightened police reform from the NJ legislature. Who knew?" Editorial, *Newark Star-Ledger*, January 9, 2024, <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2024/01/enlightened-police-reform-from-the-nj-legislature-who-knew-editorial.html>.

- **Schulley Trading Post – Mr. Rosenberg:**
  - None at this time.
- **Therapeutic Environment Committee – None at this time.**
- **Welfare Fund – Ms. Torre**

December net income was \$6,400.00. It was discussed that we need to increase the budget. We need \$42,000.00 for the year. In February's meeting there will be a discussion on the money for the Board. Mr. Hollen, DCEO will be sending out, to staff, on what they would like to see on the Wish List.

**(January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024)**

- 1. Managing Traumatic Loss- a 2-day in-person training for those interested in joining the Traumatic Loss Coalition as a Lead Response Team Member.**

- JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup> 10am-11am  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocO-vqDwqHtV3peDqRWxu4b00oBayumau>
- FEBRUARY 6<sup>th</sup> 6pm-7pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrrd-qvqTsiG9WzaDNJJWLZI88pkPlfpOML>
- FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rceytrzooE9C2glH6S6Xhre v1HDv4cEUD>

Any questions related to the trainings, please contact: Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at (732) 235-4341 or [preventoverdose@rwjms.rutgers.edu](mailto:preventoverdose@rwjms.rutgers.edu). Please see attached flyer for more information.

**3. Senate Bill 3957 passes both houses to amend the paraphernalia law on Harm Reduction Supplies.**

- a.** This will allow the decriminalization of test strips such as fentanyl, xylazine and other drug test equipment
- b.** Exempts “harm reduction supplies” from the drug paraphernalia definition
- c.** Decriminalizes syringes (expanded to include “intent to distribute and distribute”

RWJ opioid  
Training.docx

[View the bill text, here.](#)

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

- Chair:
  - Mr. Weisfeld nominated Carolyn Torre as Chair for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the nomination. Unanimously approved.
- Vice Chair:
  - Mr. Weisfeld nominated Dr. Lebel as Vice Chair. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the nomination. Unanimously approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** – There were no communications this month.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

No report currently

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

No report currently

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** – There is no communications from the public at this time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., in person at TPH.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sheila Kwoka  
Assistant Secretarial 3 to the CEO  
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

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Carolyn Torre RN, MA, APN, FAANP  
Chairperson

CT/sk



board presentation  
Jan24.pptx